



June 20, 2005

TO: Purchasers of State Timber

FROM: Doug Sutherland,
Commissioner of Public Lands

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® - SFI® Program Certification

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received certification under the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program in March 2005 for all State forested trust lands in western Washington. The SFI® program is a certification program developed by the AF&PA in 1994 for landowners and managers that qualify as practicing stewards of sustainable forestry.

This certification recognizes that the management of Westside State forested trust land by the DNR is sustainable and environmentally sound. The SFI program will not impose a new set of land management requirements on state trust lands; the SFI program certification acknowledges the benefits of our current forest management practices.

All timber purchased after March 15, 2005 from the DNR's west side regions are SFI program certified. What does this mean for the purchaser of timber from State trust lands in western Washington? SFI certification creates the potential for a broader range of markets. The certification allows purchasers and manufacturers of lumber from the timber certified under the SFI program the opportunity to participate in those markets. A growing number of U.S. paper and wood products retailers and homebuilders are adopting written policies favoring wood supplies from sustainable managed forests. Most of those policies contain inclusive measures to accept SFI program certified wood, and retailers are marketing this stewardship and sustainability to their consumers. Examples of inclusive retailers include: Lowes, Home Depot, Staples, Office Depot, Kinkos, Xerox, AOL/Time Warner, Lanoga(Lumbermans), Centex, and many others.

The SFI program certification provides an additional degree of certainty to you, as purchasers of State timber sales, regarding the sustainability of wood purchased from western Washington State trust lands now and into the future.

The Department is developing more comprehensive information about SFI program certification and this will be located on the agency's web page.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and SFI® are service marks owed by the American Forest and Paper Association. Additional information is available at <http://www.aboutsfi.org>.

